

can be housed, and the eggs, which are laid at about day break, secured.

They may do very well in a coop with other fowls, yet it is far better to have a separate place for them. They will accommodate themselves to any domicile, even an old box, barrel or hog-head. The duck seldom makes a nest until a few days before she becomes broody, but drops her eggs wherever she sits for the night.

It is very important not to overfeed breeding stock. Remember, if they have a large range, to feed them only at night; this will not only entice them home and keep them in good health, but it will increase the supply of eggs, and ensure more fertile ones.

The first eggs laid by most of our standard ducks are of a pale green color, but each one that follows assumes a lighter shade until a light cream color appears. The eggs of the Cayuga are usually black at first, but the same lighter shades follow.

Although the breeding stock of ducks cannot be made profitable if kept in small yards, in large numbers, it is not so with ducklings. A hundred or more young ducks may be bred with profit in a space that would not accommodate half that number of chickens. The former could be marketed in splendid condition, while the latter would droop and die. It is only necessary to know just how to manage them—to know that there is a little difference in the treatment required for ducks and chicks.

Uncooked grain should seldom be given to young ducks. They should *never* have it until nearly fledged, and then only sparingly. Worms, insects, and raw or cooked meat are always good. Also any kind of soft cooked food, such as is used for other fowls. A mixture of Indian meal and coarse wheat bran, in equal parts by measure, mixed and *thoroughly* scalded, makes a first-class diet for all kinds of fowls, old or young. It is good for laying hens as well. It should form the main supply for chicks and ducklings. The latter should be supplied with worms. If they seem to droop at an early age don't fail to provide the worms. Many a one has been saved by this simple remedy. In moist weather, and at early dawn, they may be seen foraging for them, and that is when they thrive. Many a breeder has spent his time, and taken extra pains, only to see the little downy pets droop and die, all for want of a little knowledge. Too free use of uncooked grain will cause a mucous substance to be seen in the eye, which increases until the eyes will appear to be glued together. The upper mandible assumes a purple hue, the skin decays, a scab takes its place and death soon follows. Hard food did it. Follow above directions, keep them away from wet

grass and from running to a large supply of water till well fledged and success will attend you.

The Rouen, Aylesbury and Cayuga are the most profitable of all our standard varieties. When Pekins first made their appearance they were "puffed" beyond all manner of reason, and this alone won for them a reputation far superior to any others. I bred the three first named varieties extensively long before Pekins were ever known on this continent, and added the latter when they were in the market. I found them inferior in every respect, less hardy and not as beautiful. Tested repeatedly by the scales in the show room and in the breeding pen either of the other three kinds has invariably outweighed them from two to four pounds to the pair. I know they look large, but it is because their feathers are loose and fluffy, like those of a Cochin. The others are more symmetrical, their feathers are hard and compact, and they are more valuable for the market or otherwise. The result of this undue praise lavished upon Pekins has been to crowd out worthy breeds and fill the country with something inferior. Many who never before had any desire to raise ducks, on reading of the wonderful Pekins, invested at large prices, only to be disgusted with their venture, yet they still believe Pekins to be superior to all other ducks.

Drive a nail here. *This* is all on account of advertising. Query,—Does advertising pay?

April 6th, 1885.

Scoring &c.

Written for March number.

Editor Review.

At the last moment I decide to say a few words upon this subject, or relating to it. I am pleased to see the subject taken up by so able a writer as X Roads, and hope, as he advises, the ball will be kept rolling till the matter is perfectly ventilated.

I do not know whether I shall be thought revolutionary or not, but I cannot see why the show of the Poultry Association of Ontario should be looked to or depended upon to take the lead in educating and influencing the people to improve their poultry, &c. The Provincial exhibition has been found wanting, and must go, though it has been allowed to exist till it has well nigh become a tramp, while our local shows have grown apace and got fat. The Industrial, for instance, occurring regularly in the same place, has exerted a continual influence, while the Western Fair is doing the same good work for the west. The people, therefore, have decided, and wisely too, that it would be wiser to divide the government grant among these several powers for good, and thus do the most good to the greatest number. The year the Provincial is at Ottawa, for instance,